

CLAIMS

1. A method of obtaining location data about a mobile entity for provision to a location-sensitive application, wherein location updates are periodically obtained from a first source of location data about the mobile entity with the interval between updates being adaptively varied in dependence on the provision of location data about the mobile entity from at least one other source of location data.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first source of location data derives location data from a cellular radio network, said at least one other source of location data being short-range location beacons, the interval between updates from the first source being extended upon location data being received from a said location beacon.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the interval between location updates from the first source is dependent on the accuracy of the location data received from said at least one other source of location data.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the accuracy of location data received from a said other location data source is determined according to the nature of said other source of location data.
5. A method according to claim 3, wherein the accuracy of location data received from a said other location data source is explicitly provided along with that location data.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the adaptive variation of the interval between updates is further dependent at least on the motion of the mobile entity.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the frequency of updates increases with velocity of the mobile entity.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the adaptive variation of the interval between updates is further dependent at least on the current environment of the mobile entity.
9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the frequency of updates is higher in environments where the velocity of the mobile entity is expected to change more often.
10. A method according to claim 9, wherein environment information is derived from a map having regard to the current location of the mobile entity.
11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the adaptive variation of the interval between updates is further dependent at least on the progress of the location-sensitive application.
12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said location-sensitive application involves the approach of the mobile entity to a target location, the frequency of updates being increased the closer the mobile entity approaches the target location.
13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the adaptive variation of the interval between updates is further dependent at least on two of the following:
- the motion of the mobile entity;
 - the current environment of the mobile entity;
 - the progress of the location-sensitive application.
14. Apparatus for obtaining location data about a mobile entity for provision to a location-sensitive application, the apparatus comprising:
- a first location-data receiving arrangement operative to periodically obtain location updates from a first source of location data about the mobile entity; and
 - a second location-data receiving location data about the mobile entity from at least one other source of location data;
- the first location-data arrangement including an update-interval control for adaptively varying the interval between location updates obtained from the first source in dependence on the receipt of location data by the second location-data receiving arrangement.

15. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the first location-data receiving arrangement is operative to obtain location updates from a cellular radio network serving as said first source of location, and the second location-data receiving arrangement is operative to receive location data from short-range location beacons; the update-interval control of the first location-data receiving arrangement being operative to extend the interval between location updates from the first source upon location data being received from a said location beacon by the second location-data receiving arrangement.
16. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the update-interval control of the first location-data receiving arrangement is operative to set the interval between location updates from the first source in dependence on the accuracy of location data received from said at least one other source of location data.
17. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the update-interval control of the first location-data receiving arrangement is operative to determine the accuracy of location data received from a said other location data source according to the nature of said other source of location data.
18. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the update-interval control of the first location-data receiving arrangement is operative to determine the accuracy of location data received from a said other location data source on the basis of accuracy data received along with the location data by said second location-data receiving arrangement.
19. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the update-interval control of the first location-data receiving arrangement is further operative to adaptively vary the interval between updates in dependence on at least one of the following:
- the motion of the mobile entity;
 - the current environment of the mobile entity;
 - the progress of the location-sensitive application.